

## THE SYDNEY J. FREEDBERG LECTURE ON ITALIAN ART

Venice 1548: Titian Looking at

Tintoretto's *Miracle of the Slave*

November 9, 2014

2:00 pm

West Building Lecture Hall

National Gallery of Art

Miguel Falomir, head curator of Italian and French painting,  
Museo Nacional del Prado

In December of 1547, when Titian left Venice for Augsburg to meet the imperial court, he was undoubtedly the foremost painter of the Venetian art scene. When he returned a year later, he found the city enamored of the talent of Jacopo Tintoretto, a painter almost thirty years his junior. Tintoretto's *Miracle of the Slave*, painted for the Scuola Grande di San Marco, was receiving unanimous praise from an enthusiastic Venetian public — including members of Titian's own inner circle, such as Pietro Aretino.

This lecture analyzes Titian's reaction to Tintoretto's challenge, which was unexpected on two fronts: first, because the two painters had previously enjoyed a cordial relationship, and second, because the *Miracle of the Slave* represented a considerable improvement in the quality of Tintoretto's painting. Ultimately, the *Miracle of the Slave* forced Titian, then in his sixties, to update his style in order to compete with a younger generation of artists — something that he was not always able to do successfully.

This program is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The West Building Lecture Hall of the National Gallery of Art is located at Seventh Street and Constitution Avenue NW.

**Miguel Falomir** is head curator of Italian and French painting at the Museo Nacional del Prado. From 2008 to 2010 he was the Andrew W. Mellon Professor at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington. He is the author of a number of books, including *Arte en Valencia 1472 – 1522* (1996), and editor of *Jacopo Tintoretto* (2009) and *Late Raphael* (2013). Falomir has curated several exhibitions at the Museo Nacional del Prado, authoring or coauthoring their catalogs: *Los Bassano en la España del Siglo de Oro* (2001), *Tiziano* (2004), *Tintoretto* (2007), *El Retrato del Renacimiento* (2008), and *Las Furias. Alegoría política y desafío artístico* (2014), among many others. He has also published more than fifty scholarly articles and has held prestigious fellowships and grants.

This is the eighteenth annual lecture offered by the National Gallery of Art in this endowed series named after Sydney J. Freedberg (1914 – 1997), the great specialist of Italian art, and it is delivered in the centennial year of his birth.



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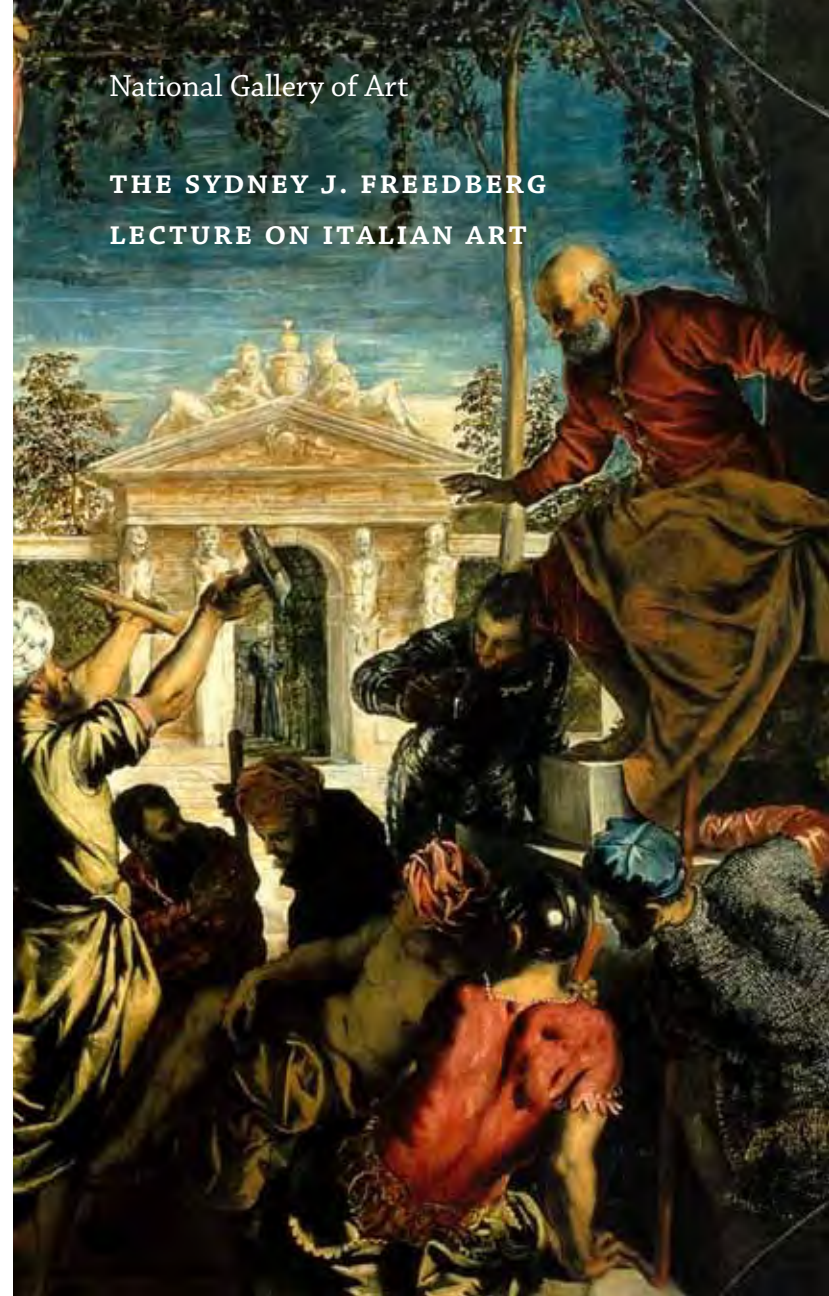
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COVER Jacopo Tintoretto, *The Miracle of the Slave* (detail), 1548, oil on canvas, Gallerie dell' Accademia, Venice. **INSIDE PANEL** Titian, *Self-Portrait* (detail), 1550 - 1562, oil on canvas, Staatliche Museen, Berlin

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